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IN HARNACK'S SEMINAR.

EVERY inch a leader and a master of teachers, Professor Harnack is above all a great discoverer, while his faculty of imparting is marvelous. Most American students hear his brilliant lectures on the history of the church, or visit his seminar as guests ; but, thanks to special concentration of work, I have been privileged to sit every Thursday afternoon during two semesters at the seminar table in an upper chamber of the royal university of Berlin.

The seminar is composed of students who have already had three or four years of theological study, and an acquaintance with scientific methods and their results in church history. The session moves briskly. Here a phrase of Cyprian's suggests a line of development in the Latin hierarchy, or reveals the spring of new life in the Christian church. All the consequences of the phrase rise before the leader's mind in a succession of pictures. In rapid sentences he follows the thought, down through the Middle Ages and the Reformation, into the church of today. Another passage calls forth a volley of questions, interrupted by a nervous gesture of head and hand toward one man after another at the table, signifying : "Finish my thought !"

In appearance Professor Harnack is slightly above medium height, with square shoulders, a trifle bent perhaps, and a head which absorbs attention completely. His forehead is high, receding somewhat too swiftly in front and at the temples to a sparse but wayward shock of light hair, now sprinkled with gray. His nose is curved, seeming rather the heavier for the sloping forehead and narrow chin ; under a carelessly growing moustache his mouth bespeaks firmness and unmistakable amiability.

His voice is intense and peculiarly sympathetic, although a distinct guttural quality betrays his birth and bringing up in the little town of Dorpat, on the Russian border.

Every Tuesday evening Harnack receives the members of his seminar at his home. They arrive, toward eight o'clock, at the low iron gate to the garden path which separates a tennis court and a bit of undisturbed wood from the attractive house, built somewhat in the style of the Queen Anne cottage and the Swiss chalet, but more substantial than either.

If the evening is fine, the professor is found in the garden behind the house, greeting each new arrival with his singularly attractive smile and hearty grasp. If the evening is unpleasant, professor and students meet in the library.

Dr. Harnack's charming wife and daughters are waiting at the dining-room door to greet the guests as they go in to supper, and their warm hospitality makes the evening meal a delight. After supper the company adjourns to the veranda above the garden, while the warm summer twilight lingers for another hour, after which the lamp is brought and the curtains of the veranda drawn.

Professor Harnack's range of conversation is astounding. A new book on the social question in England; a volume of sermons by some Dominican preacher in Italy; startling discoveries in ichthyology or ornithology in the Prussian Academy of Science; the excavations in Babylon, Egypt, and the Greek islands; the church assemblies in America—these are a few of the subjects on which he touches.

When a witty story fails him, or he has no further question to ask in the personal interests of the men around him, he brings his battered leather manuscript case from his desk and reads aloud some freshly written paragraphs of his "History of the Prussian Academy of Science," which is to be published in the year 1900, on the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the academy.

The seminar celebrated its annual summer outing in the Grünewald, followed by a parting supper at Potsdam. As it was my privilege to respond for "America," I expressed my gratitude to Dr. Harnack on behalf of the many of my countrymen who had received mental and spiritual inspiration in his lecture-room, and for the many hundreds at home who had known and revered him through his books. I felt he thanked them all as he grasped my hand warmly, with the few, straightforward words of the *Biedermann*: "Sehr gut von Ihnen, sehr gut!"

In the capital of a state in which titles, rank, precedence, and "honor" are so ingrained into the character of the people as to be confounded with *true* worth and *true* eminence, it is doubly refreshing to find such a *Biedermann*; one whose familiarity has no trace of condescension, himself not lacking in titles, and whose appreciation is not dulled by false standards of merit.

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